

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 12:02:18 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 10:20:34 -0500 (EST)
From: CEBIK@utkvx.utk.edu
Subject: "72" ohm twinlead
Message-Id: <01HL4UWWGJ768Y5TIU@utkvx.utk.edu>

I wonder if anyone knows of a source of 72-ohm (nominal) twinlead.

I need about 25' for some phaseline experiments, if it is available.

Thanks in advance.

LB, W4RNL
cebik@utkvx.utk.edu

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 17:00:58 1994
From: ab4el@Cybernetics.NET (Stephen Modena)
Message-Id: <9412272039.AA12943@Cybernetics.NET>
Subject: Re: "72" ohm twinlead...Wireman
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 15:39:35 -0500 (EST)

>
> I wonder if anyone knows of a source of 72-ohm (nominal) twinlead.
>
> I need about 25' for some phaseline experiments, if it is available.
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> LB, W4RNL
> cebik@utkvx.utk.edu

Taking the info from the CQ December issue (p. 147):

The Wireman, Inc.
261 Pittman Road
Landrum, SC 29356

ORDERS ONLY 1-800-727-WIRE (9473)
ORDERS ONLY 1-800-433-WIRE

Tech Line 1-803-895-4195

He likes to take orders on his dime...and let you chat on *yours*. :^)
That's what "tech line" means (right from the horse's mouth).

I am certain that he has 72-ohm twinlead because I bought a roll of it
from him at the JARSfest in Bensen, NC in November.

Is he good to deal with? Yes. Is he honest? Yes. Is he fair? Yes.
Is his product line the best quality available? Yes. Is his product line
extensive? Yes.

I've been watching him expand for the last several years...and also
Radio Works in VA. Both places are A-OK to deal with...and prompt.

--

73/Steve/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 16:02:44 1994
From: KELL@mpac.jsc.nasa.gov
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 14:34:13 -0600 (CST)
Message-Id: <941227143413.a3c@mpac.jsc.nasa.gov>
Subject: '94 ARRL Handbook

I have a copy of the m'95 HB. From what I hear, there is quite a bit of
difference between the 94 and the 95 HB, with stuff left out in 95. Based
on this, I have two questions. 1) is the above true, about a bunch of
stuff left out, and 2) where can I get a '94 HB?

72 and 73

Ted Kell@mpac.jsc.nasa.gov
KC5CUW

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 14:12:00 1994
Message-Id: <199412271823.AA25764@marcel.gamekeeper.bellcore.com>
Subject: 2 QRP || ! 2 QRP
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 13:23:51 EST
From: "Luis R. Anaya" <papo@gamekeeper.bellcore.com>

Greetings *:

I entered in the marvelous world of Amateur Radio about 5 month ago.
Needless to say, it has not been easy. I got a 2 meter HT radio
which I barely use. I'm planning to keep it for emergencies but
not for ragchewing. It looks like that ragchewing on a 2 meter radios
was not meant for me. Anyway, since I was a kid I browsed a lot of
my cousin's ham magazines and I got interested into QRPing and portable
communications. Just to make a long story short, there goes my questions:

1. What's the average number of contacts do you guys make every time
you turn on your rig???
2. How much watt do you run in your rigs?
3. How much should I plan to spend in a QRP rig?

4. Why I should not use a QRP rig as my main rig?

ok.. that's all for now.. more questions later (if I have time)

'73

--

Luis Roberto Anaya-Rivera	papo@donuts0.bellcore.com
A True PL/1 Hacker	papo@briscas.gamekeeper.bellcore.com
Bellcore, NJ	Ham: N2ZXE+

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 15:38:45 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 13:18:14 -0600
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Message-Id: <9412271918.AA21443@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>
Subject: Re: 2 QRP || ! 2 QRP

Gang,

Luis asks a number of questions and since he is not the only "newbie" (not a bad term in any negative way) to the QRP group, let me relate my experiences as others will. Again this is just my opinion and should be taken as such, nothing more nothing less.

1. Average number of contacts depends upon the time of day, time of year, band conditions, etc.
During the winter at night on 40M, I can average about 3 or 4 contacts per hour, but these are usually not "contest" type contacts where you just exchange name, qth, signal report, wx, and rig. We usually talk about band conditions, jobs, details of antennas being used etc. Average length of a QSO is about 15 to 20 minutes I'd guess.

I record all this information, but have just not taken the time to analyze. At the present time the FCC does not require the radio ham to keep a log, but as a QRPer and as a long time ham from the ages when we were required by law to keep a log, I still keep a detailed logbook. It makes good reading once in a while to go back over what one has done over the last few months, year, or whatever. It helps to decide if you might need to look for a new aerial, rig, or whatever.

2. I used to run 2 W with an Oak Hills Research Spirit on 40M with an 80M longwire up 10M. This was an excellent setup and gave me almost a year of continuous operation with some DX worked and lots of states. It was so easy that I now operate at the "milliwatt" level, i.e. under 1W and all the kits that I have built within the last year are set at 0.95W out as measured with a calibrated OHR WM-1 Wattmeter. I still have a pretty good "hit" ratio on getting contacts, but there are times that you can expect

to not get any answers to CQs and no answer or response from a call to an individual that you hear.

3. The expense involved in a QRP rig can be from \$50 (maybe even less) for some kits from clubs up to several hundreds of dollars (USD - United States

Dollars)

for kits like the Sierra. Commercial QRP radios will start over \$100 up to over \$600. Tack on the antenna, keyer/microphone, SWR meter/Wattmeter, and other incidentals and you start running the price up. It is all going to be dependent upon budget and your own personal goals of what you want to achieve. You get what you pay for is still a pretty good rule of thumb.

I think everyone on this list will put the antenna system at #1. My

preference

is for longwires on 40M. Others will want a yagi beam at 90 feet or more.

I like the efficiency of a long wire and the cost is relatively cheap, under

\$30

including ladder line.

4. My main rig is a QRP rig, but probably because I'm somewhat of a full QRPer now and almost always have been. At the time when QRP was under 100W, I was running 20W and then 5W when it was lowered. The only time in my life when I ever had a linear was when my father passed away and I wound up with a Collins KWM-2A (#300) and a 30L-1 linear. I sold the linear within a year and not once during that time did I turn it on or hook it up.

I think every QRPer has a different philosophy of why they do what they do. You won't get the same answer from any of the questions that you asked from anyone on this list. We're each here for a different reason. You'll find, in general, that QRPers are "tinkerers", they like to experiment, and a lot like to get on the air also. You'll find some that build but never put the rig on the air, some that build

and do get on the air (this is probably the majority), and then some that operate QRP but do not build. I think the main thing is to enjoy the hobby and doing something at low power levels is indeed challenging and rewarding.

During this time when the sunspots are at a minimum you'll find that the lower bands

are the only ones open and you won't find conditions all that great, but later when

the higher bands like 15M and 10M come back, you'll be able to easily work around the

world with QRP levels of power. Note now the poliferation of rigs on 20M, 30M, 40M,

and 80M. When the sunspots come back in 5 years or so, then everyone will be scrambling to get to the higher bands with QRP equipment.

QRP is not for everyone, but if you like the idea and the challenge(s) you can

have

a lot of fun. Just keep a sense of humour, you'll need it. :-)

I hope this helps Luis and welcome to amateur radio. Ask away and hopefully someone

can help you on any QRP related topic. p.s. I speak PL/I also, having generated 165,000+ crossword puzzles with a program that I wrote a long time ago. :-)

dit dit (my main language)

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 01:22:45 1994

Date: Mon, 26 Dec 94 23:10:44 CST

From: msdooley@collie.aud.alcatel.com (Michael S. Dooley)

Message-Id: <9412270510.AA01293@collie.aud.alcatel.com>

Subject: After the Fox

Well.... I finally talked to the Fox! Although I got flustered in the exchange I got him at 0412 on 7042 (or therabouts)! I also talked to NA5K and had a piece of a contact with VE3VAW. I'm not sure what happened there, but he gave me a 119 and then we got stepped on pretty hard (me and VE3VAW that is). Oh well, it was fun. With some more practice I may get better. This contest type exchange is also new to me. I've never worked a contest and I think that's where I got flustered.

But... I got as FOX!

Mike KE4PC

PS I got A Fox... and zapped with line noise on the MODEM [sigh].

M

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 08:28:52 1994

Message-Id: <m0rMShy-0002dKC@mtewe.kevin.mt.us>

From: mtewe!vodall

Subject: Amazing new OLD rig! (fwd)

Date: Mon, 26 Dec 1994 20:36:19 -0700 (MST)

Forwarded message:

> From: weinfurtner@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu

> Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:03:45 EST

> Subject: Amazing new OLD rig!

>

> QRP Gang,

> Gotta relate a tale of the last few days...I "accidentally" found a
> "Novice and Technician" handbook. (circa 1956, Don W6TNS and Bill Orr W6SAI.)
> In it was a schematic for a 15 watt single tube transmitter using a 6AV5.
> ...
> I had an ugly piece of maple here and a 6AQ5. The parts just seemed to
> leap out of my junk box, a transformer good for 210 vdc and 6.3vac for the
> filament, (remember that thing?), a 7.012 MHz crystal, 300pf variable cap, and
> assorted chokes and resistors. I replace the "pill bottle" tank with a t-80-2
> toroid core (49 turns) and added a half wave filter at the output, just to be on
> the safe side concerning harmonics.

Now that's an impressive homebrew project...

Hmmm... I've got a bunch of old handbooks. Might be time to dig them out
and see what I can find.

Actually, Popular Electronics or one of the similar rags had an article on
a single tube transmitter using a 50C5 in 1969 or 1970... One of these
days I'm going to have to find that article again and build one of them.
It's a little too much power (15 watts) but what the heck.

Bill - WA7NWP

Reply-To: vodall@bigsky.dillon.mt.us
Amateur Packet: wa7nwp@n7see.mt.usa.noam

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 10:53:40 1994
From: Johnson_Dan@AAC.COM
Message-Id: <9412271719.22533.AA@smrouter.AAC.COM>
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 09:16:00 PST
Subject: Re: Amazing new OLD rig! (fwd)

On Mon, 26 Dec 1994 20:36:19 (MST) Bill-WA7NWP <vodall@bigsky.dillon.mt.us>
wrote:

> Actually, Popular Electronics or one of the similar rags had an article on a
> single tube transmitter using a 50C5 in 1969 or 1970... One of these days I'm
> going to have to find that article again and build one of them. It's a little
> too much power (15 watts) but what the heck.

Why wait? Dave Ingram-K4TWJ's book, "Golden Classics of Yesteryear", contains
quite a few plans for homebrew tube rigs - yes, including and especially QRP
rigs - from the '20s and '30s, plus mating receivers (of both HB and commercial
design origin). The book is about \$10 and published by MFJ.

For example, there's a schematic for a '20s QRP TX with less than 1W INPUT. It

has a parts count of 9 (excluding batteries/power supply and antenna) and uses a single tube - a 199 or 201A. (I read in a Milliwatt reprint that a 6C4 or half a 6AU7 is an approximation of a 199 but haven't tried it - yet!)

Even if you don't build any of the rigs, you'll get a thrill just reading Dave's breezy writing style. He sure helps put the excitement back into ham radio. (P.S. Dave describes how to wind your own Lorenz coils, and here's a hint: Antique Electronic Supply apparently sells real litz wire!)

Usual disclaimer: I've no relation to K4TWJ nor MFJ and stand to gain nothing from this hearty recommendation.

Go for it!

26.5*e de Dan-KC4EWT

QTH: Herndon, VA nr Washington, D.C.
Internet: Johnson_Dan@AAC.COM
Packet: KC4EWT@N4WJN.#NOVA.VA.USA.NOAM

----- Reply Separator -----
Subject: Amazing new OLD rig! (fwd)
Author: vodall@bigsky.dillon.mt.us@INTERNET at CCRROUTER
Date: 12/26/94 8:36 PM

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Forwarded message:

> From: weinfurtner@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu
> Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:03:45 EST
> Subject: Amazing new OLD rig!
>
> QRP Gang,
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> "Novice and Technician" handbook. (circa 1956, Don W6TNS and Bill Orr W6SAI.)

> In it was a schematic for a 15 watt single tube transmitter using a 6AV5.
> ...
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> leap out of my junk box, a transformer good for 210 vdc and 6.3vac for the
> filament, (remember that thing?), a 7.012 MHz crystal, 300pf variable cap,
and
> assorted chokes and resistors. I replace the "pill bottle" tank with a
t-80-2
> toroid core (49 turns) and added a half wave filter at the output, just to be
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Now that's an impressive homebrew project...

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Bill - WA7NWP

Reply-To: vodall@bigsky.dillon.mt.us
Amateur Packet: wa7nwp@n7see.mt.usa.noam

----- Start RFC822 Headers -----
Received: by smrouter.AAC.COM (5.65+/1.3)
id 22633.AA; Tue, 27 Dec 94 08:08:30 -0800
Received: by mail2.netcom.com (8.6.9/Netcom)
id EAA11129; Tue, 27 Dec 1994 04:34:18 -0800
Received: from csn.net by mail2.netcom.com (8.6.9/Netcom)
id EAA11122; Tue, 27 Dec 1994 04:34:15 -0800
Received: from bigsky.UUCP by csn.net with UUCP id AA13585
(5.65c/IDA-1.4.4 for netcom.com!qrp-l); Tue, 27 Dec 1994 05:34:34 -0700
Received: from mtewe by bigsky.dillon.mt.us id aa12744; 27 Dec 94 3:39 MST
Received: by mtewe.kevin.mt.us (Smail3.1.28.1 #6)
id m0rMShy-0002dKC; Mon, 26 Dec 94 20:36 MST
Message-Id: <m0rMShy-0002dKC@mtewe.kevin.mt.us>
>From: mtewe!vodall
Subject: Amazing new OLD rig! (fwd)
To: QRP maillist <qrp-l@netcom.com>
Date: Mon, 26 Dec 1994 20:36:19 -0700 (MST)
Reply-To: vodall@bigsky.dillon.mt.us
X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.4 PL21]
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Length: 1356
Sender: owner-qrp-l@netcom.com
Precedence: list
----- End RFC822 Headers -----

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Wed Dec 28 00:03:21 1994
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: Antenna up--need Fox info!
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 22:52:15 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1994Dec27.225215.12559@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

It took us three weekend sessions spread over 6 weeks to do it, but the WA4KAC/WA8MCQ Antenna Erection Team finally got the WA8MCQ 40 meter delta loop back up in the air--after being on the ground for months, but this time with ladder line instead of coax. (I know, REAL QRPers use lossy coax instead of low loss ladder line...) Now that I'm finally in a position to participate in the Fox hunting, can someone send me a schedule of sorts? And here's Mike's Tip for Techs for today: If you want to put up an antenna using that hyper-flexible wire with 168 strands, but the antenna will unavoidably cross one or more tree branches on the way up or down, and it positively cannot be avoided, DO NOT use the 168 strand wire! I can give you a positive, iron-clad guarantee that the wire WILL wear thru as it moves in the wind relative to the branch(es) and come crashing down sooner or later.

A little math: #14 gauge overall, 168 strands making up that #14 gauge overall; what is the size of each strand? My dial calipers tell me it's #36 or #37 wire, depending how you want to interpret the wire charts, and it doesn't take that much rubbing against a tree branch to wear through a #36 strand...and eventually the strand next to it and the one next to it...in my case, the antenna lasted about five months before it snapped--there were just too few of those #36 strands holding it together to stand the stress. Not saying anything bad about the company or companies that make the wire, just a little lesson in applied physics :-)

73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 11:57:11 1994
From: mont@netcom.com (Mont Pierce)
Message-Id: <199412271609.IAA03144@netcom.netcom.com>
Subject: asdf
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 08:09:52 -0800 (PST)

who qrp-1

--

Mont Pierce

```
+-----+
| Ham Call: KM6WT           Internet:  mont@netcom.com |
|   bands: 80/40/20/15/10/2 |
|   modes: cw,ssb,fm        |
+-----+
```

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 13:42:10 1994

Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 11:59:09 -0600
From: seront@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu (Bernard Seront)
Subject: Re: asdf
Message-Id: <9412271656.AA08867@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu>

At 08:09 AM 12/27/94, Mont Pierce wrote:
>who qrp-1
>
>--

send you request to listserv@netcom.com

Bernard Seront

<<><><>>
| | e-mail: seront@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu
| (o)(o)
_ |) adr: Department of Earth and Space Sciences
| ,_ | State University of New-York at Stony Brook
| _ / STONY BROOK, NY, 11794-2100, USA
/ \ tel: (516)632-8302 fax: (516)632-8240

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 18:50:18 1994
From: mont@telco-nac.com (Mont Pierce)
Message-Id: <9412272233.AA02708@ren.telco-nac.com>
Subject: Re: asdf
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 14:39:33 -0800 (PST)

>
> At 08:09 AM 12/27/94, Mont Pierce wrote:
> >who qrp-1
> >
> >--
>
> send you request to listserv@netcom.com

Alright already. Come on guys. I've received about 20+ notes
telling me what I did was wrong. I know it. I just made a stupid
mistake. Okay?

72 es sri abt tt,
km6wt

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 18:40:59 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 17:19:04 -0500

From: James R Johns <jrj@mbunix.mitre.org>
Message-Id: <199412272219.RAA04935@mbunix.mitre.org>
Subject: Autek Research

The January 1995 issue of QST lists Autek's phone number as:
813-886-9515. You might try that number.

73

Jim Johns KA0IQT
jrjohns@mitre.org

I have no interest in Autek financial or otherwise.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 10:43:41 1994
From: haber@bmcwest.com (Rhonda Haber)
Subject: Call Signs
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 07:18:05 +700
Message-Id: <haber.379.0011129D@bmcwest.com>

Here is a list of the stations I worked last night as The Fox. I should be
back home Thursday evening -- will post a recap then.

AB50U
NA5K
N6ULU
K5UP
KC5EQC
K6QQ
KB0LMQ
AB4EL
WW7Y
N0ZYK
VE6GK
KE4PC
WA6HHQ
KK6ZC
WB0GIX
N7AFB
NN9K

72's Ron
KU7Y

By: Rhonda Haber

The highest cost of livin's
dyin -- that's one everybody
pays...

So have it spent before you
get the bill --
There's no time to kill

(Clint Black/No Time To Kill)

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 16:52:57 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 12:04:56 -0800 (PST)
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>
Subject: coherent CW
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941227120205.22125A-100000@crl10.crl.com>

I am interested in exchanging ideas, ckts, etc. with CCW experimenters.

I would like to swap ideas with anyone who has Bill de Carle VE2IQ
Sigma-Delta board and is trying to connect it to a QRP rig. I am also
looking for an ftp internet location for the software to run on this
board.

de stan AK0B
e-mail to randyw@crl.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 15:57:19 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 13:13:39 -0700 (MST)
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: fox
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941227131020.26124C-100000@ume>

got the fox.....first time, heard him and worked him within two minutes
of turning on the rig.....makes up for the times I listened for two hours
of static. Nobody else repsonded to cq inet so I went back to winding
torroids for my sierra.....hope to finish it tonight.

72

Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E) * VE6GK
Email: zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca * NorCal 519 ARCI 7099 GQRP 8329
Phone 403-271-5123 Fax 403-225-1276 * "Power is no subsitute for skill"

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 12:24:27 1994

From: stockton@stockton.ppco.com
Message-Id: <9412271617.AA11819@stockton.ppco.com>
Subject: Fox hunt
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 10:17:37 -0600

Well Ron, KU7Y, was sounding real good last night. He was coming and going, of course, but was S7-9 for a good deal of the time. Heard AB5OU, N6ULU, K6QQ and AB4EL as they worked him. Just heard Ron's end of the QSO most of the time, though.

Thought Ron did a great job, especially handling the non-inetters.

```

+++++
Glen E. Stockton                ges@ppco.com
K5UP                            Bartlesville, OK
+++++

```

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 19:40:40 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 15:22:40 -0800 (PST)
From: "Henry B. Smith" <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: Fox Hunting: Lotsa Fun
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941227144826.10382B-100000@crl8.crl.com>

My second week of fox hunting was even more fun. Unfortunately I got side-tracked sometime between 10 and 11 PM (CST). My apology to Mike, KE4PC, for ducking out when I got the phone call.

Steve, KB4EL, had some very good points about giving reports and communicating. Thanks.

I decided to try a little QRP DX last night cuz there were a few Asian, Pacific and South American stations comming through.

Heard lots of ZL's and VK's, two HL's (Korea), two RW's (Russia), a few South Americans and tons of JA's (Japan).

Before it was over, I managed to work:

PR7P0 in Brazil, he was 579 I was 339
HC5AI in Ecuador, he was 579 I was 449
VE20TA, he was 579 I was 549
JA1NUT in Japan, he was 579/589 I was 549

The loud DX stations were about 559 to 569 last night and they could not hear me. There were no pileups, I just wasn't getting through the ether. BTW, I was running a TS50 at 5 watts with a Delta Loop that works pretty well.

These louder (559/569) DX stations were the ones with higher power and better antennas. I know this becuz I read their mail and took note of their rigs. Their high power does me no good, their antennas do.

Notice that the stations that I was able to work were all about 579. Most likely they were not running lots of power and probably had good antennas. JA1NUT, Sin, always comes through strong and last night (actually this morning) showed that he must have a dyno-mite antenna system.

It appears that having a good "path" is very important with QRP DX. With QRO you can "muscle" your way into a contact. (I gave up on the Siberian station (RW9USA) after waiting for the path to open and worked him with 50 watts, shame shame).

In addition, I think a good low-angle antenna would also be best.

You can be sure that I do it again, it is quite a thrill to work DX with 5 Watts.

*** If anybody has any suggestions about working QRP DX, please speak up.

One more thing: I am new at this. What is the origin and meaning of 72?

CUL

Smitty, NA5K

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 01:31:04 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 00:17:12 -0500 (EST)
From: Brien Pepperdine <pepperb@gov.on.ca>
Subject: FoxHunt
Message-Id: <Pine.3.07.9412270012.A1088-b1000000@govonca>

Gee. 40 actually sort of sent some signals tonight. Sad to say though that the Fox was not heard - but I did not expect somehow to hear Nevada here. What I did hear at 7040 was a lot of Spanish SSB. Sigh. As if there were not lots of places they could otherwise be.

Worked AB4EL from the Crib Sheet.

Remains to be seen if NA4K (I think, Athens, TN) was a hound/inet qrp'er or not. He was 119 and a bit hard to hear but heard. Not qth report from him to confirm what the electronic call book says. Might be TX if it was NA5K instead (which it could have been, but without qth and name to match

callbook it is hard. Wish they would attempt name and qth). BTW, AB4EL DID send qth, many tn timer, though I did not copy a name, but the crib sheet helps a LOT. (tn timer for crib sheet es if you are not on, pls get on, it makes it easier to know who the hounds and inetters are so we can work one another)..

Got a another station, but not an inet list member, definite call I think as N3RK, but no match re. callbook on call info to definite copy of name as Jerry in Pittsburgh. Go figure. He said he wanted to qsl, so I await his card to solve the mystery.

A lot of fun, I was amazed at what I could hear on the NorCal 40 really. I'll be back. It was fun, and if the station was TX or TN, I am even that much happier, since my antenna is a no-gainer fer sure. Hope NA4K turns out a hound (or my cw copying of 119 sigs improves to the point where I can be sure of the callsign I copy!).

Maybe we can continue the FoxHunts after the winter, since it seems 40 works nights then. If I can hear American Heritage Radio up the band I know something is happening, but if not, forget it.

72 de VE3VAW aka Brien
Toronto

pepperb@gov.on.ca

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 03:01:43 1994
From: ab4el@Cybernetics.NET (Stephen Modena)
Message-Id: <9412270653.AA03401@Cybernetics.NET>
Subject: FoxHunt (fwd)
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 01:53:07 -0500 (EST)

Brien--

>
> Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 00:17:12 -0500 (EST)
> From: Brien Pepperdine <pepperb@gov.on.ca>
> Subject: FoxHunt
> ...
>
> Worked AB4EL from the Crib Sheet.

Thank you.

> Remains to be seen if NA4K (I think, Athens, TN) was a hound/inet qrp timer
> or not. He was 119 and a bit hard to hear but heard. Not qth report from
> him to confirm what the electronic call book says. Might be TX if it was
> NA5K instead....

Probably NA5K...whom I worked also...

Another point..as a matter of teaching. One would give a "119" report to indicate to the other person that you know there is a signal there, but are not getting anything at all. 1=not readable at all
1=barely perceptible 9=pure dc note

It is generally accepted practice that "229" is the absolute minimum signal report when you are in fact able to get *some* of what is being sent to you. You are encouraging the other op to send things three times. Whether or not one should slow down or speed up under those circumstances depends on the nature of the QRM/QRN. During thunderstorm QRN, speed up! to send more characters in the clear before something is wiped out on a static crash...allowing more text received from which to guess and fill. Nothing worse than missing every other character because the op is sending just slow enough to synchronize with the static crashes. :^)

Nonetheless, a 519 is a legitimate report...when the band is dead quiet (which never happens on 40 M). :^)

In doing SSB work, it is generally understood that one sticks with:

22: 1, 2! 1, 2! rifle shot Bang! Bang! 2 by 2
33: 1, 2, 3! 1, 2, 3! Triplets Triplets 3 by 3
44: 4 by 4 Box Cars! 4 and 4
55: 5 by 5 Speed Limit 5 and 5
57: 5 by 7 Heinz' Variety 5 and 7
59: 5 by 9-er Maximum! Maximum! 5 by 9-er

If you are sending back the *same* signal report as received, include the word "also"...also 3 and 3 also 3 and 3. If the other op catches the word "also," he knows the rest.

There are two points: 1) in a bad circuit, you want to communicate, not exchange precise observations :^) 2) communication with low error occurs when the *expected* vocabulary is defined and is the minimum needed for the job at hand. A sure sign of an idiot operator is the Field Day station on 40 Meters using phonetics like: Kilocycle Nine Very Wet Duck. Who knows what his callsign is in the jumble. :^)

The above is for *all* new or little-experienced ops on this list...not directed to Brien personally. What we are doing in the Fox Hunts is a challenge...and we can learn and enjoy at the same time.

>

> A lot of fun, I was amazed at what I could hear on the NorCal 40 really.
> I'll be back. It was fun, and if the station was TX or TN, I am even that

> much happier, since my antenna is a no-gainer fer sure....
> Maybe we can continue the FoxHunts after the winter, since it seems 40
> works nights then....

> 72 de VE3VAW aka Brien
> pepperb@gov.on.ca

I agree: it is fun...and I especially like working the guys from Inet.

--

73/Steve/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 19:00:58 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 16:37:28 -0600
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Message-Id: <9412272237.AA21824@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>
Subject: Gel-Cell Charger

Gang,

Over the last few days I received and assembled the Gel-Cell Charger from Tejas Kits, PO Box 720331, Houston, TX 77272-0331. Model # is 8101-12 in the Winter 1994-95 catalog. As it's list price was \$19.95 and with the discount and TX tax, I got it for \$20.00 even. This does not include transformer (12-16VAC @ 700mA) or enclosure or switch. Just the PC board and on board parts. It is good for up to 4.5Ahr batteries.

I have been using an ACE Varicharger at 150mA to charge my Gel-Cells and the war stories about how much damage you can do to overcharging scared me into buying a gel-cell charger. The charger from ACE is an old one that was used for charging the old NiCads for model airplanes (ever hear of the Adams Actuator?) (my Uncle did that one). It still works like a champ metering and all.

The Tejas board went together in less than an hour. A three step procedure to set three pots on the board and it's ready to go. Now I can relax and leave the gel-cell to charge so it'll be ready for the next session with one of the small rigs.

Bill Hickox, K5BDZ, is now having a 15% discount on all the kits. Drop him a line if you wanna

know what he still has.

I am not associated with Tejas Kits or Tejas RF Technology in anyway. Just another customer.

This kit uses several 2N3904's and various discrete components and does not use the "smart chip" as seen in the last few ARRL handbooks.

dit dit

p.s. there was a reference to a QST article a few years back, but I don't have it here at the office. Maybe I can dig it up.
Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 02:16:37 1994

Subject: Got the Fox!

From: john.moriarity@com2bbs.com (John Moriarity)

Message-Id: <aa.6099.200@com2bbs.com>

Date: Mon, 26 Dec 1994 21:03:00 -0800

Hi Folks,

I got the fox this week! Didn't even hear him the last two weeks. Ron was pretty weak on 7110, but I heard him later on 7040 and his signal was up to 569. The only other inet call heard was AB4EL, but he was always busy.

I don't always get to listen for the foxes because I work evenings over half the time. It's great fun, though, so I'll keep trying.

Thanks to all,

John, K6QQ

john.moriarity@com2bbs.com

+-----+-----+		
COM2: BBS	sysop: Sean Azhadi	
San Diego, CA.	Internet: sysop@com2bbs.com	
619.737.0495 BBS 12 Nodes	Info: info@com2bbs.com	
619.737.9659 voice		
+-----+-----+		

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 14:20:14 1994

From: "Tim Stabler" <TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 12:01:51 CST
Subject: hamfest
Message-Id: <73DCAB4461@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>

Hamfest on January 8, 1995 at Century Center in South Bend, Indiana.

Good Show!!!!

73 de Tim WB9NLZ

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 02:34:12 1994
Subject: HeilSound speaker/amp
Date: Mon, 26 Dec 1994 22:11:47 -0800
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Message-Id: <9412262211.aa12486@paris.ics.uci.edu>

Anyone have the little Gray/silver "Heil Sound" amp / spkr - this one was sold about 10 years ago. It has two amps in it, one for the built in speaker, one accessory, about 5 watts or so (I see this in an ad from a 10 year old QST). It has a 5 pin DIN plug on the back and a 12 volt connector of some type (like Yaesu and Icom HT battery connector jacks). I would like to find out the pinout on the DIN plug and the correct polarity for the 12 v jack. It looks like just the ticket to use my NorCal 40 here at home. Anyone know about these things?

Clark
WA3JPG

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 17:25:23 1994
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.ge.com
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 15:55:21 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <941227155521.2164ad5d@cayman.vf.ge.com>
Subject: Re: homebrew question/what fox?

Two subjects here folks,

First about the homebrew question:

Does homebrew or homebuilt mean it has to be done by yourself? I use several home designed rigs, some I built myself and at least one other currently in use that someone else built. And I have lent some of my homebrew rigs to others for their use. Do they all count or what?

Second topic:

Didn't hear the fox at all last night. There were lots of novices on 7.11+

When it was changeover time to 7.04+, I hear lots of spanish ssb. Even hear VE3VAW, about 229 working AB4EL, who peaked at 579. Heard another 5 and at least one 6, but not sure if they were Inetters or not.

72/73,

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 10:33:42 1994
Message-Id: <m0rMd3R-00085oC@mike.ucns.uga.edu>
From: mthomas@mike.ucns.uga.edu (Mike Thomas)
Subject: Is anyone out there?
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 09:39:13 -0500 (EST)

Mike Thomas

```
_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_ mthomas@uga.cc.uga.edu  
_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_ mthomas@mike.ucns.uga.edu  
_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_ KE4LAU - Amateur Radio  
_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_ University Computing & Networking Services  
_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_ University of Georgia
```

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 17:25:48 1994
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.ge.com
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 16:24:33 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <941227162433.21643ddd@cayman.vf.ge.com>
Subject: Is Autek still there?

I may be out at the very least a Christmas present. In early December, my wife mailed away to Autek for one of those neat Antenna Analyzers that are advertised in QST. I've heard that they were backlogged, so I tried to call them today (12/27). Ma Bell says that the number from the ad, (813) 871-3805, has been disconnected and there is no new number for them. Anybody know whether or not there is a new number? Are they still in business? As of a few years ago, mail order folks were required to notify their customers if they could not ship within 30 days and give them a chance to cancel their order if this was too long. I haven't heard anything from them.

I want my Analyzer!

72/73,

Joe E. N2CX

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 02:08:14 1994

From: ab4el@Cybernetics.NET (Stephen Modena)

Message-Id: <9412270544.AA28821@Cybernetics.NET>

Subject: KU7Y as Fox...Is he QRO?

Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 00:44:49 -0500 (EST)

This is a bit more hash for certain peoples' bit buckets. ;^)

As soon as I turned on my radio I could hear KY7U despite him sitting right on some terrible QRM. But he couldn't hear me at first. So I worked some others.

27.12.95 7.114 MHz 03:21 NA5K 559/579
03:23 N6ULU 559/559 "Steady Stan" :^) ***
03:32 KU7Y 559/549 "Idaho" Me running 5 W

Later down band ...

7.044 MHz 04:10 KU7Y 579/339 Me running 1 W

Then I heard KE4PC (539) work the Fox on 7.041...the fox shifted frequency several times...getting louder all the time, peaking S8.

7.041 MHz 04:23 VE3VAW 559/229 Brian in Toronto
7.043 MHz 04:38 N1DAJ 559/569 Fred NJ 5 W HW9 inside ant

*** Note: I just put up an inverted V and Stan couldn't hear any significant difference between it and my wire vertical dipole. Which is A-OK to me...the vertical is an easier antenna in the long run... but the inverted-V seems to put out at least as good a signal on 80 M as does my ground-mounted 80 M ground plane ant!!! :^)

And finally, with holiday cheer:

Bless the Costa Rican hot-shot "Mr. DX" TI4CF adjusting his Knwd 930's processing so that he was succeeding in splattering from 7.050 right down to 7.040! :^) Undoubtedly trying to show the penurious Cubanos below 7.040 how you can do it when you have real dolares to play with.

--

73/Steve/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 12:03:55 1994
From: mont@netcom.com (Mont Pierce)
Message-Id: <199412271609.IAA03083@netcom.netcom.com>
Subject: look at the GOOD side
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 08:09:23 -0800 (PST)

Hi Everyone,

I just got re-subscribed to the list.

I was thinking how stupid it was for netcom not to have a backup that could have just put us back where we were. But... Then it dawned on me. This may be a good thing that has just happened. Think of it. All those who didn't know the correct way of unsubscribing are all gone. Anyone who resubscribes must first KNOW HOW to resubscribe, plus they will all receive the welcome message which explains how to UNsubscribe.

Just hope the word get's out to everyone that they must resubscribe, if they want to. Huh oh... I wonder how many "subscribe" requests are going to qrp-1... Oh well!!

Now for something qrp related: I now have the means to go mobile (parked vehicle only) qrp. I plan to spend my lunch hours at work trying to work up my code speed. I'll be using an ARK 4, straight key, and 40m hamstick on magmount.

I have a couple of questions about the antenna. Is it necessary to put the cap. accross the coax at the antenna end in order to make the antenna tune properly? Is magmount ok, or would it work better if i drilled the hole and installed the antenna directly to the vehicle? What's the best way to tune the antenna: a Field strength meter or an SWR meter?

tnx es 72 de km6wt

--

Mont Pierce

```
+-----+
| Ham Call: KM6WT           Internet: mont@netcom.com |
|   bands: 80/40/20/15/10/2 |
|   modes: cw,ssb,fm       |
+-----+
```

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 13:21:46 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 12:17:12 -0500 (EST)

From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: look at the GOOD side
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9412271219.B15336-0100000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>

On Tue, 27 Dec 1994, Mont Pierce wrote:

> me. This may be a good thing that has just happened. Think of it.
> All those who didn't know the correct way of unsubscribing are all gone.
> Anyone who resubscribes must first KNOW HOW to resubscribe, plus they
> will all receive the welcome message which explains how to UNsubscribe.

Interesting thought but you are wrong... look at all the lamers sending messages asking for the "WHO" and sending it to qrp-l instead of netcom.com!

Some people never learn... or at least take a minute to read the faq that got sent by netcom right after subscribing. :-)

73 =paul= wb8zjl

p.s. missed the fox again (sigh)

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 12:48:16 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 09:05:23 MST
Message-Id: <9412271605.AA18746@rgfn.epcc.Edu>
From: ab253@rgfn.epcc.Edu (Andrew Hair)
Subject: Mini-Expedition Bust!

To all:

With the best of intentions, I prepared to hike/climb up a rather steep peak in El Paso yesterday in order to operate QRP portable. Mother Nature stepped in and decided to rain on my parade. I won't attempt a climb under rainy conditions. The loose shale gets pretty slippery when wet. So... with any luck, I will try this little outing again next Monday. Same mountain, same time. I did spend the time modifying my backpack antenna mast system. As a result, I have the whole system (antenna + mast) down to 4 1/2 pounds. I purchased a light-weight aluminum extension pole at Builder's Square for \$14. It extends to 12' and fits into the PVC "T" connector on the base of my previous antenna stand (Joe, N2CK might be interested in this idea). For those who are not aware, I have to tote a portable mast for my inverted vee backpack antenna, because where I go climbing there are no support structures for a wire antenna.

Since the weather did not cooperate, I set up my antenna in the backyard

and operated in between showers. I managed three nice rag chews and one short contact. My longest QSO at 4 watts with my 12' antenna was in Quebec with VE2SU. There was even some short skip late in the afternoon (I worked one ham in East Texas). I don't have my log with me so I can't remember all the calls. I did manage to hear a California station at 1 watt--we had a brief QSO. Not as satisfying as working the top of the mountain, but it had to do. I want to thank all those dedicated QRPers like WA6HHQ, N2CK, W5TB et. al. who were listening for me. Sorry I couldn't get on, but listen next Monday. Weather permitting, I will be there.

One other thing. I want to apologize for sending the "who qrp-1" message to the list. I knew I erred when I sent it--got ahead of myself. That's all for now. Happy New Year to all!

72

Andrew Hair - AB5WB
El Paso, Texas

--

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 17:37:30 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 14:13:15 MST
Message-Id: <9412272113.AA18458@rgfn.epcc.Edu>
From: ab253@rgfn.epcc.Edu (Andrew Hair)
Subject: OHR Info Needed

To all:

A few weeks back, someone posted a list of QRP kit/equipment suppliers. I knew I should have downloaded it then! In particular, I need the address of OHR. I am interested in ordering one of their kits. Can anyone help--it would be appreciated. Thanks.

Andrew Hair - AB5WB
ab253@rgfn.epcc.edu

--

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 19:29:44 1994
From: Raymond.Anderson@Eng.Sun.COM (Ray Anderson)
Message-Id: <9412272325.AA00975@radium.Eng.Sun.COM>
Subject: qrp list as of 14 Dec. 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 15:25:45 -0800 (PST)

If it would be of any use to anyone, I've got a copy of the
qrp-l subscriber list as of 14 Dec. 1994.

If you need/want it, e-mail me at raymonda@radium.eng.sun.com

72's de WB6TPU, Ray

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 18:16:03 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 15:55:42 -0600
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Message-Id: <9412272155.AA21697@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>
Subject: QRP Rig Profile

The Colorado QRP Club, CQC, in their last newsletter had a
spreadsheet on one page with a profile of 20 rigs with columns
for

Mfr:Model:Unit:Modes:Kit?:Bands:RX:Filter:RIT:AGC:Preamp:Atter:RX Drain:
Spkr:Meter:S Tone:VFO:Output:TX drain:Keyer:QSK:Volts:Price

Rich and the gang did a heck of a lot of work to produce this chart.
I'd like to see them produce it in ASCII format and distribute on
this list or give me permission to do so. The reason: there is some
information that this group can contribute and it will certainly aid
those looking for something to try and get a comparison before they
buy.

The table is missing the NorCal Series the NE30-40 and NE40-40 and
the two latest OHR offerings. It's a good table and concise in it's
format. The ascii version will take a couple of pages.

This table alone is worth a years sub. You can reach them at cqca@aol.com
about membership.

dit dit
Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 15:57:27 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 14:05:06 EST
From: RTRC25A@prodigy.com (MR PRESTON J DOUGLAS)
Message-Id: <013.02464666.RTRC25A@prodigy.com>
Subject: Radiokit QRP 30

-- [From: Preston Douglas * EMC.Ver #2.10P] --

Radiokit QRP 30: Well, I built the bloody thing. The comments a few weeks ago about the Radiokits being harder than other kits, and deserving of extra points for harder-than-homebrew have some merit. Nevertheless, it does work when built. So far, though, there are some bugs that need work. First, the rig is unstable beyond 2 watts (supposed to give me five). There is a bug killer in the instructions for this, which is free for those who need it from Radiokit. Just a pain to undo everything to remove the board to make the changes when the parts come. More troublesome is the audio filter, which squeals, and is obviously oscillating (maybe overloading the amp chip.)

But the rig puts out two watts (there's them's who say that's plenty) and hears with the filter switched out. Will try making a contact next!

Early returns are that the critics are only half right. This rig is a really tiny QRP superhet, perfect for travel, once built. But absolutely not for a beginner and maybe even too much for an intermediate builder. And, of course, the size makes building that much harder. Trouble is, Radiokit doesn't have a repair facility, so you really are on your own. If you don't have the skills, this kit is a risk because you won't know how to fix it and there's no one to do it for you. But I am very pleased with the final product so far. It's a little like having a baby! It hurts in the beginning, but you get to keep the kid.

Meantime, will start the NN1G (Dan's version--the two boarder) for 40.

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 01:25:01 1994
From: ab4el@Cybernetics.NET (Stephen Modena)
Message-Id: <9412270513.AA27086@Cybernetics.NET>
Subject: Re: RESTORING THE LIST
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 00:13:56 -0500 (EST)

> Subject: RESTORING THE LIST

>

> Well, well, well... this never happens at the Credit
> Bureau.

> Does anyone know why we can't just ftp or telnet

> a copy of the blitzed list to LISTSERV and restore
> it that way?
> 73, Ade
I left a voice message for N1IST about the wipe-out.

Do you have a copy of the list as it stood before the wipe out?

I alerted everyone on my CribSheet list. If you have a copy of the full list...I am willing to email to everyone to let them know what happened and to recommend resubscribing.

--

73/Steve/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 08:27:49 1994
Message-Id: <m0rMScq-0002dKC@mtewe.kevin.mt.us>
From: mtewe!vodall
Subject: The Homebrew Question
Date: Mon, 26 Dec 1994 20:31:01 -0700 (MST)

Might as well throw in my 2 dits worth...

> aren't we trying to encourage
> both qrp operation and *actually building something*?

ABSOLUTELY!!! (shouting on purpose!)

> OK, maybe we should
> have 'designed your own radio' and 'built your own radio' as the two
> categories,

For what it's worth - that makes a lot of sense to me. How about calling them "HOME-BREW" for something you brewed up yourself as opposed to something you "HOME-BUILT" from somebody else's design.

> but what about designing a radio by borrowing bits of the
> circuit from published designs?

That's a good question. Where is the dividing line? After all - very few of us come up with truly original circuits.

> > 1. ANY kit, where kit is defined by the presence of a
> > commercially produced circuit board.
> > 2. HOMEBREW, which means you made your own board, as well as
> > everything else.

That makes more sense to me than the step-by-step instruction rule. Using a circuit board designed by someone else takes most of the "homebrew" out of the homebuilt. I'd take it a step further and say that if you used a pre-existing circuit board design instead of drawing your own - it would be "homebuilt" and not "homebrew."

> I guess this will make my 20M sideband rig (Zack Lau's from the 95 handbook)
> not homebrew, since I am building it on a commercially produced 'generic PCB'
> board with many uncommitted pads. I certainly would call it homebrew. Since
> I don't have the facilities to etch my own board, I would definitely buy
> one if it is available, even if I am only using it as a starting point (like
> WB2CPU's DDS-controlled 160-40). So is my 40-40 'homebrew'? I got the
> board from FAR, ordered all of the parts from 6 different vendors, bagged
> the 20 kits I was producing, and stuffed the board from the PCB X-ray view
> and parts list. A bit of metal work later, and I had a box for it. I then
> tuned it up with a scope and an MFG antenna analyzer as a sig gen - not the
> way described in the manual. Why is that any less homebrew than a crystal
> and a 74LS04 on a Radio Shack IC bus board? or on good old perfboard? or
> stuck through a shirt cardboard?

I guess it depends on what we want to mean by "homebrew". Is it a radio you designed yourself? Or is it somebody else's design that you put together.

As with many things in life this boils down to personal values. I've put together many kits and projects from magazines and usually end up hacking on them in some way. But I've never really built a radio and made a QSO with my own design. Being able to do that is a major goal of mine. QSO's with the commercial equipment are so easy it's hardly fun. A QSO with a kit is a thrill!! A QSO with a rig of my own design would be an ultimate thrill!

> I feel that if you did any more soldering than connectors/controls (other than
> repairing an existing radio), it should count as homebrew.
>
> Just my opinion.
>

Think how boring it would be if we didn't have different opinions...

Instead of having bonuses to "handicap" all the radios into one category - why don't we have separate categories in the contests? One for commercial gear, one for homebuilt, and one for homebrew'ed.

> /mike
> n1list@netcom.com

73' Bill

AX25: wa7nwp@n7see.mt.usa.noam
IP: wa7nwp@wa7nwp.ampr.org
Internet: vodall@bigsky.dillon.mt.us

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 12:16:17 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 08:23:39 -0800 (PST)
From: Jeff Jones <jeffj@crl.com>
Subject: Re: The Homebrew Question
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941227081632.18963B-100000@crl10.crl.com>

On Mon, 26 Dec 1994 mtewe!vodall@crl10.crl.com wrote:

> > OK, maybe we should
> > have 'designed your own radio' and 'built your own radio' as the two
> > categories,
> For what it's worth - that makes a lot of sense to me. How about
> calling them "HOME-BREW" for something you brewed up yourself as
> opposed to something you "HOME-BUILT" from somebody else's design.
> > but what about designing a radio by borrowing bits of the
> > circuit from published designs?

I believe homebrew should be something that you that you have built off partially off other people's designs. There are very few of us that can with no reference to any books build a circuit from scratch. Right now in my slow way I am building a 40 meter DC receiver that has front end and oscilator of the Neophyte but the audio circuit is from the Sudden Receiver. When I add a transmitter to go with it this will be from somewhat modified designs of others also. All of this will be on a generic PCB that allows for point to point wiring. This I believe is homebrew at it's finest. Hacking other people's designs to get what you believe is the best. Then again just getting the darn thing working is good too. 8-) Just another ham's opinion...

Jeff

jeffj@crl.com | When I gave food to the poor, they call me a saint.
AB6MB | When I asked why the poor had no food, they call me a
| communist. Dom Camara KPFA 94.1 Bay Area Progressive Radio!

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 18:28:10 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 14:12:58 -0800 (PST)
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>
Subject: VF0 - Build for Stability

Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941227140041.29398A-100000@crl4.crl.com>

The principals of building a good rock stable VFO have been known for many years. However, many amateurs and QRP equipment manufacturers seem to ignore them. Many of the messages on the QRP-list relate to problems with stability of various units including commerical designs.

Mechanically and electrically a VFO must be built like a rock.

The following are just a few hints one should follow:

- a) Use double bearing variable capacitors. Normally these can still be found at the local hamfest.
- b) Once the coil is tuned either by removing turns and/or squeezing or expanding the spacing use Q-dope to secure it in place. I always all extra turns to a coil and tune by removing first, then squeezing and expanding the spacing.
- c) Use the Yellow powered-iron toroids, they have 2 or 3 times better temperature stability than the red ones. Yes, they will work at 3.5 and 7 mHz. Do not use ferrite.
- d) Fasten the coil down. The hardware store has cone shaped rubber washers for fixing dripping faucets that work well when you add a plastic screw. Brass or Iron screws will change the inductance value and the tuning.
- e) Use 18, 20 or 24 ga wire for the coil. I prefer nylon coated since a hot soldering iron will strip it easily. Make it tight wound.
- f) Use polystyrene capacitors for best temperature stability. NPO's help to trim some of the core drift. I prefer several caps in parallel to trying to tune with only one or two caps. Some silver mica drift very badly. You may also remove plates from the variable capacitor if the frequency is too low. Caution when removing plates and do not remove too many. However, the fewer plates the better the bandwidth.
- g) One sided PC boards are better for VFO's than two sided or multi-layer.
- h) Use a vackar circuit
- i) Use a good FET such as 2N5484
- j) Isolate the VFO stage from the driver
- k) High inductance low capacitor best for stability. about 3 uH for 7 mHz

Following the above hints will give you an exceptionally stable VFO. If even greater stability than a few cycles per hour is required, check on the Huff and Puff circuits from SPRAT.

de stan ak0b
e-mail randyw@crl.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 17:32:53 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 13:39:28 -0800
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Message-Id: <199412272139.NAA09052@netcom14.netcom.com>
Subject: WWCR, 13.845 MHz AM, QRM on Direct Conv RX

I've been resurrecting a couple of old Ten-Tec power mite transceivers. All is going well, except that I've been getting lots of AM detection. To add insult to injury, the AM detection is only one station carrying fundamentalist christian gospel or something like that. Anyway, the AM detection interference is VERY strong and doesn't respond to broadcast band filtration.

After several days of unwanted preaching from my Power-Mite transceiver, I listened long enough to hear "WWCR Tennessee National". I couldn't find the station on my AM BC receiver, so I hooked up a SW receiver and started tuning the bands. Lo and Behold (sorry!) I found WWCR at 13.845 MHz AM, enormously strong (I'm in Denver). I'd always wondered where EIMAC sold those 1.5 megawatt tetrodes, and I think I found one of their customers.

So here's the fix I'm in: I seem to be in the main skip zone for this station WWCR, and 13.845 is so close to the 20M band that I don't think I can filter it out without killing 20M in the process. Of course I can change to another rig, but that's not the point: I want to use the old Ten-Tec Direct Conversion Power-Mite gear (a nostalgia trip).

Any comments?

Does prayer help with direct conversion AM detection problems?

73 Dave WB0GAZ dgf@netcom.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 18:14:23 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 14:30:50 -0800
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Message-Id: <199412272230.OAA17183@netcom16.netcom.com>
Subject: Re: WWCR, 13.845 MHz AM, QRM on Direct Conv RX

>I assume you are looking at 14.000-14.100 range on the tuning

>and not the SSB freqs. 13.845 + 0.555 yields 14.400 for AM
>beating with SW. I was looking at a heterodyning effect, but
>that doesn't seem to be your case.

No, this is a direct conv receiver so there is no IF. The signal causes problems across the whole 20M band. The problem is one specific signal, so perhaps a sharp notch filter could take it out, but that might not be feasible due to the small delta between 13.845 and 14.0.

Dave

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 20:20:41 1994
Message-Id: <199412272358.PAA07746@scruz.net>
Subject: Re: WWCR, 13.845 MHz AM, QRM on Direct Conv RX
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 15:58:35 PST
From: "Stan Goldstein, N6ULU" <stan@cruzio.com>

David Feldman writes:

>
> After several days of unwanted preaching from my Power-Mite transceiver,
> I listened long enough to hear "WWCR Tennessee National". I couldn't find
> the station on my AM BC receiver, so I hooked up a SW receiver and started
> tuning the bands. Lo and Behold (sorry!) I found WWCR at 13.845 MHz AM,
> enormously strong (I'm in Denver). I'd always wondered where EIMAC sold
> those 1.5 megawatt tetrodes, and I think I found one of their customers.
>
> So here's the fix I'm in: I seem to be in the main skip zone for this
> station WWCR, and 13.845 is so close to the 20M band that I don't think
> I can filter it out without killing 20M in the process. Of course I can
> change to another rig, but that's not the point: I want to use the old
> Ten-Tec Direct Conversion Power-Mite gear (a nostalgia trip).
> Any comments?
> Does prayer help with direct conversion AM detection problems?
Dave , I saw an ad this week for 1-900-PRAY , perhaps that is the
answer.
Maybe a hi-q trap resonant at 13.845 ?
Is it coming from the antenna ?

--

72.5 (almost a full qrp convert)
Stan Goldstein , N6ULU

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 21:18:56 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 17:34:59 -0800
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Message-Id: <199412280134.RAA12472@netcom5.netcom.com>
Subject: Re: WWCR, 13.845 MHz AM, QRM on Direct Conv RX

>Is it coming from the antenna ?

Given the station I am receiving, I have considered the possibility of divine propagation. Would disconnecting the antenna help?

Dave

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Tue Dec 27 22:43:13 1994
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 1994 18:56:16 -0800
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Message-Id: <199412280256.SAA28739@netcom16.netcom.com>
Subject: Re: WWCR, 13.845 MHz AM, QRM on Direct Conv RX

>13.8 MHz is close enough to 20 meters to require a pretty good trap
>but it should be doable with not more than a db or so of loss. You might
>get away using a crystal notch filter. Use a 18.8 MHz crystal to shunt
>the transmission line and resonate the parallel capacitance with a small
>inductor to peak the response on 20 meters. Insertion loss would be
>pretty low but you would only get a 6 - 12 db notch with a typical crystal
>unless you raised the impedance level. Good luck.

>

>What do you think?

This sounds like a pretty good idea. I doubt WWCR moves around alot, so perhaps a single 13.845 MHz crystal could be arranged in some kind of series-resonant mode to shunt the garbage to ground. The only catch is I'm not sure how to design the filter. Hopefully a simple monolithic RF amp (like MWA-710 or something) would make a good gain block after the crystal.

Time to hit the good book (ARRL handbook, I mean).

Dave

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Wed Dec 28 00:26:05 1994
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: Re: WWCR, 13.845 MHz AM, QRM on Direct Conv RX
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 94 23:03:25 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1994Dec27.230325.12559@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

Sorry, prayer only helps with AM detection if it's a religious station AND of the same denomination you belong to! Sorry, but you have the same problem that lots of early direct conversion receivers did, including the Heath HW-7, and there really isn't any easy cure. You could build a high-Q notch filter for the antenna lead and it might help some, but the best thing would be to cut up the receiver and apply the KN1H HW-7 fix to it. That was in the Oct 1987 issue of the QRP Quarterly, and I'm in the process of reviving the article, along with

EASY TO READ AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND schematics; John was never happy, and will gladly tell you himself, with the translation the article underwent between his typewriter and the pages of the QRP Q. The article is not especially easy to follow, and the schematic is quite confusing, and I hope my redrawing will help. Basically what he did was rip out the offending MOSFET mixer, which is the cause of the problem, rewire it as a VFO amplifier to boost the VFO signal up high to drive a doubly balanced mixer module such as the MCL SRA-1 or SBL-1, and then feed the output of that into the audio chain (with a bit of preamplification). Many early DC receivers used the same basic MOSFET mixer circuit, and all had the same problems. The solution to the basic problem was described quite well by W7EL in the Aug 80 QST, in his Optimized QRP Transceiver article. (The article appears in the second, not first, printing of QRP Classics from ARRL. I don't know if it's the entire article; I do remember that the first time the W7EL rig showed up in the ARRL handbook they deleted the section describing his discovery of the cure to the problem. There was also an article in the QRP Quarterly by Denton Bramwell, K7OWJ, circa 1986 titled A High Performance Direct Conversion Receiver, where K7OWJ also describes how he arrived at the cure through some experiments with a scope.) Using a MOSFET mixer in a direct conversion receiver is asking for problems, as has been proven repeatedly over the years. (And why do superhet receivers using MOSFETs as the first mixer not have AM detection problems? Heh heh heh.....the AM detection is there, all right, at the output of the mixer, but the output of the mixer is fed to an IF amplifier, not to an audio amp, and an audio signal applied to the input of a 455 KHz, 10.7 MHz, 8.833 MHz, whatever, IF amp is not going to make it through the tuned circuits of the amp!) 73 and Queue Our Pea
DE WA8MCQ

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Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
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Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking